

REMARKS

Claims 21-24, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35-36 and 69 are pending. Claims 21-24, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35-36 and 69 stand rejected. Claims 21 and 36 have been amended.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 21-24, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35-36 and 69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being "indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention." Specifically, the Examiner finds that the element of "sequentially administering a protein chemokine and a nucleic acid encoding an antigen" in claim 21 conflicts with the limitation "wherein said antigen and said chemokine are not physically linked as a fusion protein", rendering the claim confusing. Applicants have amended claim 21 to delete the latter limitation. The indefiniteness rejection should therefore be withdrawn.

Claim 36 stands further rejected as indefinite because it refers to administration of a protein chemokine in the form of a vector. The conflicting portion of claim 36 has been deleted by the current amendment, thus obviating the rejection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 21-24, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35-36 and 69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing comply with the written description requirement. In particular, while acknowledging that the specification provides description for the full length MCP-4 polypeptide, the Examiner asserts that there is no adequate description of "biologically active fractions" or "fragments" of MCP-4.

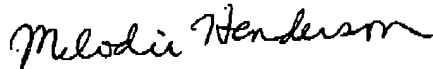
In the interest of furthering the prosecution of this case, Applicants have amended the claims to omit coverage of MCP-4 fractions or fragments. As such, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims at an early date are earnestly solicited.

If the undersigned can be of assistance in addressing issues to advance the application to allowance, please contact the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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